

Invitation

International Workshop

Towards a Strategic Framework for European Union Support to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding?

Date: 6th December 2011

Venue: Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Schumannstraße 8, 10117 Berlin

Conference Language: English

In its 2001 Gothenburg Programme, the European Union committed itself to pursue conflict prevention as one of the main objectives in its external relations and developed an integrated approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This approach stresses the close interaction between conflict prevention, peacebuilding and development. Consequently, conflict prevention and fragile states are one of the key areas in the European Development Consensus. This is of particular interest, as the EU and its members account for around 60% of total ODA. The European Commission alone is the second largest donor in the world. In 2009, a share of 14% (or 1.65 billion Euros) was oriented towards conflict prevention and fragile states and has been spent through a range of geographic and thematic community instruments.

Ten years after the adoption of the Gothenburg Programme, it was time to assess the European Commission's support to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. What is the added value of the European Commission in this field? To what extent was peacebuilding mainstreamed into community instruments and to what extent has the support contributed to tackling the root causes of conflicts? Has the support been designed and implemented in coordination and complementarity within the EU and with other donors and civil society organizations? Among others, these questions served as the basis for a new major evaluation of the European Commission's support to conflict prevention and peacebuilding (the main report and annexes of the evaluation can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/evaluation/evaluation_reports/2011/1291_docs_en.htm).

In view of preparations for setting EU financial perspectives post-2013, the renewed interest in the Gothenburg Programme, the creation of the Conflict Prevention Group in the European External Action Service and the revival of the Action Plan for Fragility, Security and Development, the findings of the evaluation gain even more importance. Is there a new momentum to advocate for a revised strategic framework for European peacebuilding policy?

We are looking forward to discuss these issues in a joint workshop of the Working Group on Peace and Development (FriEnt) and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). We would be very happy to welcome you on 6 December in Berlin and would be grateful if you could confirm your participation with the FriEnt secretariat (frient@bmz.bund.de; +49 (0)228/535-3259).

Yours sincerely,



Marc Baxmann, FriEnt



Catherine Woollard, EPLO

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Programme

- 13.00 **Arrival and Sandwich Lunch**
- 13.30 **Welcome and Introduction**
Marc Baxmann, FriEnt
- 13.45 **Thematic Evaluation of European Commission Support to Conflict Prevention
and Peacebuilding: Main Conclusions and Recommendations**
Dr Edwin Clerckx, Head of the Evaluation Department, ADE
- 14.45 **Comment: A Civil Society Perspective on the Overall Evaluation**
Josephine Liebl, Policy Officer, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)
- 15.00 **Q+A, Open Discussion**
- 15.45 Coffee Break
- 16.15 **Round Table: New Impetus for a Revised Strategic Framework?**

Bastian Hermisson, Head of EU / North America Department, Heinrich-Böll-
Stiftung, Berlin

Peter Muermans, Division Peace and Security, Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Berlin

Andrew Sherriff, Senior Executive International Relations, European Center for
Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Maastricht

NN, EPLO Steering Committee, Brussels

Followed by discussion
- 17.30 End